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American School
of Oriental Research
in Palestine

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGING
COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL
FOR ORIENTAL STUDY AND RESEARCH IN
PALESTINE

To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America :

GENTLEMEN, — The American School for Oriental Research in Palestine has now completed its fifth year, and, although the funds of the School have not enabled the Managing Committee to organize it in the method originally intended — with a permanent Director in the field, and an Assistant Director, appointed annually from one of the contributing institutions — nor to undertake extensive explorations, the School has, nevertheless, accomplished excellent results: (1) in the instruction of students, whose enthusiasm for Biblical learning will always be the heartier and their power of imparting knowledge of the Bible much the greater because of the opportunity enjoyed by them of studying Biblical Science in Palestine; and (2) in some creditable discoveries and investigations, the record of which has been published in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, in the *Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis*, in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, and in other scientific periodicals, as well as independently under the following titles: J. E. Hanauer, *Stories told in Palestine* (edited by H. G. Mitchell; New York, 1904); G. A. Barton, *A Year's Wandering in Bible Lands* (Philadelphia, 1904).

In 1904-05, under the Director for the year, Professor Nathaniel Schmidt, of Cornell University, accompanied by

Mrs. Schmidt and the members of the School, extensive field work was carried on in the Dead Sea region, the old Edomite territory, and the Negeb, the results of which appear in Professor Schmidt's appended report. Instruction was given, also, both in the field and classroom, to three students, to whom every available facility was given for archaeological and philological work. The students were able by the close of the year to finish the cataloguing of the School's library, a task of some magnitude.

The matter of the housing of the School is a most important problem which the Managing Committee is at present engaged in solving. While the French and German Schools are permanently housed in buildings of their own, up to the present time the American School has been accommodated in temporary and shockingly inadequate quarters in the Grand New Hotel near the Jaffa gate. If the funds can be provided, the Committee now sees its way clear to secure a permanent and suitable location for the School, which would, of course, greatly increase the efficiency of the work. The main question is this: Shall the Committee expend from 2000 to 2500 francs a year for rent, when, for the capital on which this sum would be the interest, a large piece of land could be bought, where a suitable house for the School could be erected? The Committee feels that the School has three most pressing needs which must be met, if we are to carry on satisfactory work in Palestine, and rank with the scientific Schools of other nations. We need funds, first, for land and building; secondly, for a permanent Director; and thirdly, for more extensive explorations. Recent discoveries have indicated the existence, beneath the soil of Palestine, of ruins and remains which undoubtedly will throw great light on Biblical questions. Although we are in possession of information which seems to promise, through exploration and excavation, most important results, the authorities of the School are obliged to remain idle because, up to the present time, no money has been forthcoming for the necessary work.

It is much to be hoped that our Director for 1905-06,

Professor Benjamin Wisner Bacon, of Yale University, will be enabled, through the kind interest of such men of means as are interested in Palestine exploration, to inaugurate a new era in the history of this undertaking.

J. DYNELEY PRINCE.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
October 1, 1905.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1904-1905

To the Managing Committee of the American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine :

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present the following report of the work accomplished by the members of the School and of my administration of its affairs during the academic year 1904-05.

The work of the School was carried on without cessation from the end of May, 1904, to the beginning of August, 1905.

There were three registered students, Mr. Albert Ten Eyck Olmstead, A.M., holder of the J. Henry Thayer Fellowship, Mr. Benson Brush Charles, and Mr. Jesse Erwin Wrench. They all came from Cornell University and had for a number of years been students in my department. Their special preparation included Latin, Greek, and Semitic epigraphy as well as Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic, the topography of Syria as well as the history of Western Asia, and also photography, squeeze-taking, and surveying.

It seemed to me expedient that the year should be devoted to work that can be done only in Syria, or to better advantage there than in Europe or America, such as the examination of places possessing a historic interest, towns, ruins, mounds, caves, tombs, and archaeological remains still *in situ*, the exploration of unknown or little known regions, the observation of methods and results of excavation on the scenes of operation, and the study of the speech, customs, and religious life of modern Syria. It also appeared to me desirable that the members of the School should bring back with them to America the largest possible collection of photographs, squeezes

of inscriptions, phonographic records, and topographical notes, as material for future study.

The students left Ithaca on April 30, 1904, with definite plans for the work to be done before my arrival. They reached Beirut on May 25. After two weeks of study in Beirut, they started upon the first of their projected trips through Northern Syria. They hired a muleteer for their baggage, consisting of camera, squeeze-cans and squeeze-paper, cooking-utensils, army-blankets, etc., but preferred to travel on foot themselves, as this enabled them to see the country more thoroughly, and to reduce expenses. They first went down the coast to Sidon and Tyre, then inland to Belfort Castle, and then north by Jezzin and Deir el-Kamr to Beirut, returning on June 22. The second trip, June 29-July 29, was more fatiguing. Walking the first day twenty-six miles, they ascended from sea-level to an elevation of a mile, descended to Shtora, turned south and visited a number of the Hermon temples, Mejdal 'Anjar, Deir el-'Ashair, Raḥleh, Ka'at Burkush, 'Ain Ḥersha, and Nebi Safa, crossed the Jordan, and climbed Mt. Hermon from Ḥasbeyah. They then descended to 'Arneh and Kefr Ḥawar, where they could find no trace of the temple mentioned in the guide-books. In this region they found even the most recent maps very defective. As one example among many, 'Ain el-Sha'ra is given on the Baedeker maps and on that of Stübel as north of Wadi Barbar. In reality the place is ten miles to the south, on the southern side of Wadi 'Arneh. After a detour to Ka'at Jendel, they went to Damascus. Going from there to Ba'albek, Mr. Olmstead walked through an uncharted valley where the thriving village of Ḥam was situated.

From Ba'albek they went up the Orontes valley to 'Ain Lebweh. Here they found themselves in a Metawileh town and were obliged to make their escape at three o'clock in the morning. A little north of Ras Ba'albek an attempt was made to rob them, and shots were fired, but no serious damage was done. From Homs (Emesa) they hoped to proceed to Palmyra, but orders came from the Wali of Damascus prohibiting the excur-

sion, as the region was not considered safe. After a short visit to Hamah, they returned to Homs, walking the first day $29\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Next they went south through the plain of Homs, carefully examining the lake and the many mounds in this district. From Hermil they proceeded to Wadi Brissa to secure squeezes of the famous cuneiform inscription. After two days' work under peculiar difficulties — they had to carry water over a mile, were forced to use swing-ropes, and could secure no food — their supply of squeeze-paper failed and they were not able to finish the inscription. During the two days 150 sheets had been put on. From Hermil they went over the Hermil pass, nearly ten thousand feet high, to the Cedars, and having visited Haşrun, Tannurin, 'Aķura, 'Afķa, and Mezra'at, they reached Beirut by way of Nahr el-Kelb. As their photographic supplies had failed them, Mr. Wrench returned on a four days' trip and secured a good collection of photographs.

After a number of shorter trips, they began their third long excursion which lasted from August 31 to September 11. They visited Jebeil, 'Amshit, Baṭrun, Tripoli, and Tartus. Here again they found the maps very defective. For instance, Ehmej is given on every map based on the French survey as west of Dama. In reality, it is northwest of Ḳartaba, near 'Alamat. After a visit to the important ruins at Mashnaķa, they descended the Nahr Ibrahim gorge and returned to Beirut.

The last trip before my arrival, September 27 to October 25, led them through Sidon to Belfort by an unfrequented route, across the Merj 'Ayun to Hibbariyeh, then to the sources of the Jordan and the Şubebah Castle, through practically every important place in northern Galilee, and down the coast to Tyre, 'Akka, Haifa, 'Athlit, Ṭanṭura (Dor), Ḳaişariyeh (Caesarea), Arsuf, and Jaffa.

As results of this work may be mentioned, squeezes of about 125 inscriptions, among them the Babylonian inscriptions at Nahr el-Kelb and in Wadi Brissa, Hebrew inscriptions on the ruins of synagogues at 'Alma, Kefr Bir'in, Ḥurbet Nabatein, and elsewhere, some Phoenician and Arabic inscriptions, and a

large number of Greek and Latin inscriptions, more than 500 photographs, and the correction of various errors in the published maps. Special papers will be prepared by members of the School on the inscription under the aqueduct at Nahr el-Kelb, the Homs region, and the castles of the Crusaders in northern Galilee.

Literary work prevented my departure for Syria until the autumn. Your Committee kindly permitted me to attend the International Congress of Arts and Sciences in St. Louis at the end of September to present a paper on the Fundamental Conceptions and Methods of the History of Religion. As no persons besides my own students had applied for membership, and they were willing to continue the work with me through the summer of 1905, this courtesy fortunately did not involve any loss to the School. Owing to the recent railroad strikes, I was for some time unable to secure passage to Egypt, but availed myself of the opportunity to study objects of archaeological interest, methods of excavation and recent discoveries in Rome, Pompei, and elsewhere. Special thanks are due to M. Boni, who is in charge of the excavations in the *Forum Romanum*, for many courtesies. On my way from Italy, Alexandria, Cairo, Memphis, Heliopolis, and Port Said were visited. I arrived in Beirut November 18, and a few days later in Jerusalem, where my wife and myself took up our quarters in the Grand New Hotel, while our daughter found excellent care and good instruction in the *Couvent des Sœurs de Sion* in Via Dolorosa.

Under the circumstances, it seemed to be best to rent for the School the room in the Grand New Hotel which had been occupied by my predecessors. At the same time, I was painfully impressed with the inadequacy and unsuitableness of this little room in a distant corner of a hotel for the needs of our School, and this impression steadily grew, as I became acquainted with the French and German Schools, with their ampler facilities, and the general character of the life of Jerusalem.

On December 2, I sent to your Committee a preliminary report of the work done, the measures taken, and the plans for

the future. I also expressed my conviction that the School should never be removed from Jerusalem, which is the proper place for it; that, nevertheless, close relations should be sought with the American College in Beirut; that the School would not be able to accomplish its best work, or secure for itself the recognition it deserves, until it should possess a house of its own in Jerusalem; that a Permanent Secretary should be appointed, to insure continuity of field work and practical management; and that larger funds were needed for the library and for exploration.

It is a matter of sincere gratification to me that each of these suggestions received the most careful consideration from your Committee, as evidenced by the missions with which I was charged, and by the generous grants from very limited funds for the library and for exploration, without which it would have been impossible for me to carry out the plans proposed.

In the crippled condition of the School, it was out of the question to arrange such a series of public lectures as those offered by the French and German Schools, and I was constantly obliged to accept favors without being able to reciprocate. But it is a pleasant duty to record the unfailing courtesy, the warm interest, and the ready helpfulness of these sister-institutions.

With all the more zest did we devote ourselves to that field of endeavor in which it seemed possible to labor with success with such a material equipment as we possessed. We had cameras, squeeze-paper, maps, and note-books full of references and extracts. I had brought with me from America some surveying instruments, photographic supplies, and Edison's latest phonograph. Other instruments I was able to borrow. And the land lay before us.

A systematic study of the towns once belonging to Benjamin and northern Judea occupied us for several weeks. Some of the places visited were El-'Isawiyeh, 'Anata, Hizmeh, Jeba', Miḡmas, El-Ram, Tell el-Ful, Jifna, Ramallah, Bireh, Beit Ur el-fōka, Beit Ur el-taḡta, Jib, Nebi Samwil, El-Kūbebeh, Kuryat el-'Enab, Şoba, Kaṣṣal, Kūlonieh, 'Ain Karim, Malḡa,

Lifta, Ḥurbet el-Saideh, Bittir, El-Ḥidr, Ka'at el-Burak, Artaş, Beit Jala, Teku'a, Ḥaretun, Jebel Feredis, Beit Saḥur, Bethlehem, Abu Dis, El-'Azariah, Mar Saba, Deir Wadi Kelt, Jericho, 'Ain Feshḥah, and Hebron. The Christmas season gave us opportunities to observe in Jerusalem and Bethlehem the ceremonies of the Christian religion. A night spent in shivering cold on the shore of the Dead Sea in December convinced me that the navigation of the lake must be postponed until a later date. On a special trip to Shiloh we spent a night at Miḥmas and a day in studying the topography of the surrounding district, whereupon we visited Rumman, El-Ṭayibeh, Tell 'Aşur, Turmus 'Aya, Seilun (Shiloh), Burj Berdawil, Beitin (Bethel), El-Tell, and Bireh.

Our exploration of the Negeb began in January, when we walked from Jerusalem to El-'Arish in order to examine and survey the littoral from Gaza to the ancient boundary of Egypt. The following places were visited: Abu Ghosh, Latrun, el-Ramleh, Ludd, Na'aneh, 'Akir, Ekron, El-Mughar, Yebna, Esdud, Yasur, El-Mejdel, 'Asḳalan, Ghazzeh, Deir el-Belah, Ḥan Yunus, Tell el-Rifaḥ, El-'Arish, El-Munṭar, Beit Ḥanun, Tell el-Ḥesi, 'Araḳ el-Munshiyeh, Tell el-Şafi, Tell Zekariyeh, Kefr Zekariyeh, and 'Ain Shems. We made good use of theodolite and compass, being able to establish a continuous series of triangulation stations from Gaza to El-'Arish. As on our previous trips, we journeyed on foot, only Mrs. Schmidt riding, and a muleteer conveyed our baggage. Except in Ramleh, Esdud, and Gaza, we slept in native houses, or on the ground.

Upon our return to Jerusalem in February, a week was occupied in preparation for the next undertaking. A part of the eastern boundary of the Negeb, extending from Sebbeh (Masada) to Jebel Usdum, was still unsurveyed; and my first intention was to walk down to the southern end of the Dead Sea to examine carefully this section. But I had long cherished a desire to circumnavigate the salt lake of Syria, in order to explore a part of the eastern coast never visited in modern

times, and to seek fresh light on some recently discussed questions concerning the white line, the currents, the bottom, and the beaches. On the 16th of February we went to the Jordan, accompanied by Mrs. Schmidt. The Prior of the Convent of Mar Yohanna promised to let us have a boat, provided the necessary permission to use it could be obtained. To secure for us such permission, Mrs. Schmidt returned to Jerusalem.

While waiting for news from Mrs. Schmidt, we walked up the Jordan valley, crossed the 'Aujeh, to examine Fesa'il, and then climbed the high Kurn Şartabeh and photographed the remains of the old fortress of Alexandreion. We spent the night in a cave on the slope of the mountain, and proceeded the next morning to Wadi Farah. At the Chiftlik, the local commander insisted upon our going with a military escort to Nablus, as no soldiers dared to go with us back to Jericho by the way we had come. Nine gallant warriors, mounted on their fiery steeds, rode before us, while we made the ascent on foot. Unfortunately, Mr. Charles was obliged, in photographing a village in front of us, apparently to point the camera toward them, with the consequence that our brave defenders galloped away for dear life, and we never saw them again. At Nablus, the Kaimmakam, in solemn session, apologized for our detention, expressed his regret at the very inferior accommodations his city could afford to travellers, and offered a military escort to Jericho, which I courteously declined. By way of 'Akrabeh, Mejdel, El-Domeh, Kefr Malik, and Ṭaiyibeh, we reached Jericho two days later.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Schmidt had succeeded in obtaining from the Turkish authorities the necessary permission, and on the 21st of February we floated down the Jordan. Our boat, the *Dagmar*, was about 16 feet long, had four seats, a sail, a pair of oars, and a good keel. We had supplies, consisting of bread, canned meats and fish, potatoes, rice, oats, sugar, figs, oranges, nuts, tea, and Jordan water, sufficient for three weeks. We dispensed with servants and native counsellors, doing all the work ourselves; and we had books, instruments, and cameras

with us. All labor was divided equally among us, each taking his turn. In order to be able to examine the coast and photograph its most characteristic features, we did not sail or row after dark, but camped every night on the shore, each keeping watch for two or three hours, while the others slept.

We waded up the Zerka Ma'in and bathed in its warm water, examined the 'Ain Zara, and reached, on the second day, the mouth of the Mojib in time to make a fruitless attempt to get our boat around the first bend of the river to the south. If former statements are correct, the river was unusually deep. The next morning we rowed again up the river. At the beginning of the chasm the width is not more than 60 feet, as Seetzen calculated. Climbing the mountains on both sides, we secured some excellent photographs. Having succeeded in getting our boat around the bend, we rowed up a considerable distance until the shallowness of the water prevented further advance. Then we fastened the boat and waded up the river about 500 feet, beyond the first waterfall, which we photographed, to the second, which has not been known before.

The most striking feature of the coast between the Mojib and the Lisan is the delta of a wadi that has been wrongly designated on the maps as Wadi Jerra. Its southern boundary is formed by a series of low hills, so equal in height as to look at a distance like the ramparts of a fortress. Beyond these hills, which continue for half a mile, there juts out the delta of a large wadi, not indicated on the maps. Here we camped and spent three days on account of a storm. The *Dagmar* had sprung some leaks. Remembering the statement of Josephus, that the bitumen was used for caulking ships, we melted some large chunks which we found on the shore. But it was of no value, and we had no tar. After examining the wadi and climbing Jebel Jerra, we undertook a reconnoissance in the direction of Wadi Beni Hammideh.

When after two hours we arrived at the mouth of a large wadi, north of Wadi Beni Hammideh, we made a most interesting discovery. Burekhardt had been told by his Bedouin

guides that the true *Towahin el-sukkar*, or "sugar-mills," were not at the southeast corner of the lake, but north of the Lisan and south of a mountain, around which there was no beach. Tristram first supposed that there was a confusion, but was afterwards told the same thing by a chief from the western side of the lake. No credit has been given to the statement, however, and no traveller has visited the spot. But here we discovered the remains of a fine aqueduct, a wall, and the foundations of at least three buildings. The main part of the aqueduct was 160 feet in length. A series of well-constructed arches still remained. The circular water channel was partly filled with limestone, and much of the structure had a limestone coating about three inches thick, along the top of which the water had worn a narrow groove more than an inch deep, after the original trough had been filled up. The part connecting with the dam in the wadi had crumbled down. Some 270 feet to the west the water conduit continued on the top of a high wall for 50 feet, and nearer the lake branches led to different buildings. The foundations of three of these remained, showing the arrangement of the rooms; and some hewn stones and door-jambs were seen.

The appearance of a Bedouin and the sight of a large camp in the distance led us to return. When we reached our camp, it was deemed wise to put the *Dagmar* to sea in spite of the storm. Rowing at a safe distance from the shore, we could see plainly the whole coastline. Before we had reached Cape Costigan, we had the opportunity of watching the lights of the Ghowarineh moving northwards in search of our camping-place. From Cape Costigan to a point near Cape Molyneux there is no beach, the cliffs running down perpendicularly into the sea. We therefore determined to row across from the Lisan to some point on the western shore. Avoiding the camp-fires off Wadi Seyal and Wadi Sufasif, we steered for Wadi Huberah, which we reached at midnight after eight hours of a most fatiguing struggle with a howling wind and leaden waves.

At sunrise a Bedouin came up to us from the south, who said

he belonged to the Reshaideh of 'Ain Jidy, and went in the direction of Wadi Sudeir when he left. In an hour he returned from the south with a swarm of savages, not encumbered with much clothing, but armed to the teeth with swords, guns, pistols, and knives. We tried to get our boat out, but deemed it most expedient to let them drag it ashore, when guns were pointed at us and our food and blankets were carried away. We built a fire and sat down, chatting with them. If we gained their respect by telling them that they were Jahalin from Wadi Sufasif and not Reshaideh, as they pretended, and by showing no anxiety to leave, even when they urged us to do so, we won their hearts by laughing good-naturedly at their jokes about our clothes. All our things were carefully brought back to the boat, save the sugar, which had already sweetened their disposition, and we parted as friends.

On the evening of the same day we drew up our boat on the beach in front of Jebel Usdum. In recent times it has been frequently asserted that this beach has been entirely swept away. The fact is, that in the northern part, before the mountain bends, the beach has disappeared, while a broad beach still remains all along the southern part. We found the water extending several miles beyond the southern end of Jebel Usdum, the whole Sebħa being apparently covered by it.

When opposite Wadi el-Ḥeṣa we felt a strong current, just as we had some distance out from Wadi Mojib for a long while in the direction of the Jordan, and near Wadi Beni Hammideh; but neither between the Lisan and the west coast, nor west of the Jordan, nor anywhere else, did we perceive any current setting northward. When we had examined the east coast and were rowing along the southern shore of the Lisan approaching Cape Molyneux, we had a finer view of the famous white line than at any time before. We had seen it forming and breaking up in various directions north of the Lisan. But here it lay a short distance south of our boat, a belt of foam stretching across the entire lake almost due east and west, with a peculiar haze above it toward the west. This observation

renders the white line useless as evidence of a slit in the bottom of the lake running north and south.

Near Point Molyneux, where we camped for a night, the water was unusually warm and the bottom had a reddish tint and was very slippery, as Burckhardt had been told by his guides. But neither here nor anywhere else did we see any oil.

From the Lisan we returned to Wadi Huberah, visited 'Ain Jidi, and spent a night at 'Ain Terabeh. We found hot fountains here on the shore within a few inches of the sea, yet almost without any brackish taste. Our last night upon the lake we spent in a reed hut at the mouth of the Jordan belonging to two fishermen, who the following day rowed the boat up the river. There was truth in their remark that "the water of the Dead Sea is good for the body, but bad for one's clothes." At the convent we found fresh garments and a carriage sent down from Jerusalem.

We came back on the 4th of March from the first complete circumnavigation of the Dead Sea in perfect health, with dozens of good photographs and much valuable information. The results were happily supplemented five months later, when I visited, in the scorching heat of the summer, the Lisan, Wadi Beni Hammideh, Wadi Jerra, and Wadi Suweil, where the aqueduct was found, and discovered the remains of a Roman road leading along the coast to Abu'l-Felus at the mouth of the last-named wadi. I hope to present a full account of our observations in a volume on *The Dead Sea*.

After ten days of study and preparation, my students began a journey on foot to Galilee through the districts lying east of the littoral and west of the road to Nablus and Nazareth. They visited Kubebeh, Beit Nuba, Yalo, 'Amwas, Mediyeh, Abud, Tibneh, Deir el Kala', Dhikrin, Mejdal Yaba, Ras el-'Ain, Jiljilieh, Kilkilieh, Funduk, Fara'un, Kulunsaweh, Kakun, Rameh, Jeba, Tulluza, Burj Fari'a, Tubas, Yasir, Jelbon, Jebel Faqua', Mezar, Kumieh, Taiyibeh, Kaukab el-Hawa, Lubieh, Kura Hatatin, El-Mughar, Tell Hazur, Remah, Mejdal Kerum, Shefa 'Amr, Beit Lahm, Jeida, Tell el-Kasis, Hartiyeh, and Haifa.

Meanwhile I went, accompanied by Mrs. Schmidt, to Beirut to consult the local authorities of the Syrian Protestant College in reference to the possibility of a closer connection between our School and this institution. From Sidon I had the pleasure of sending to your Committee a report presenting a definite plan of coöperation which had the cordial approval of President Bliss and the Faculty,—and also a plan for the purchase of a definite site in Jerusalem and the erection upon it of a home for the School.

Having used the opportunity to visit Baalbek and Damascus, we joined the students in Haifa. We drove to Mt. Carmel, 'Akka, and Nazareth, and from there walked to Şefurieh, Kanet el-Jelil, Şafed, Kerazeh, and Tell Hūm, where excavations were carried on by the Germans, examined Hān Minyeh, 'Ain Mudhawerah, and the mountain behind it, 'Ain Tabighah, 'Ain el-Tin, and Mejdēl. From Tiberias we rowed around the Lake of Galilee, landing in many places, and drove down to the Jordan bridge, where we took train for Beisan. From this place we proceeded to 'Ain Jalud, Zer'in, Nazareth, Kefr Kenna, Jebel el-Ṭur, Iksal, Endor, Nain, Tell el-Mutesellim, where excavations were carried on by Dr. Schumacher, Tell Ta'annuk, where Dr. Sellin had been excavating, Jenin, Sebastieh, and Nablus. On Mt. Gerizim we attended the Samaritan Passover as guests of the High Priest. I shall discuss some peculiarities of the celebration in an article on 'The Samaritans,' in Dr. Hastings's *Dictionary of Religion*, and in a *History of the Samaritans* which I am preparing for the press. By way of Sinjil we returned to Jerusalem.

The Jewish Passover, the Muslim Nebi Musa festival, and the Greek and Latin Easters gave opportunities for the study of these religious ceremonies. At the end of April we received a kind invitation from Mr. Macalister to examine the excavations carried on by the Palestine Exploration Fund at Abu Shusheh, the ancient Gezer.

On the 9th of May our first journey for the exploration of the central plateau of the Negeb began. The necessary

animals for carrying our baggage were hired. We had with us large supplies of food, a collection of books, a number of maps, cameras, squeeze-paper, a phonograph, a theodolite, a mercurial barometer, an aneroid barometer, a prismatic compass, a thermometer, and a pedometer. At Ḥalaṣa it was found necessary to have a few camels to carry water and grain. We were accompanied by Mr. John Whiting, of the American Colony in Jerusalem; and from Bir el-Seba' we had a soldier with us as escort and guide. The itinerary was as follows: 'Ain Dirweh, Beit Jibrin, Tell el-Sheria', Bir el-Seba', Ḥalaṣa, 'Asluj, Raḥameh, 'Abdeh, Sebaita, El-Meshrifeh, 'Ain Ḳadeis, 'Ain Ḳudeirat, 'Ain Kuzeimeh, 'Ain Muweileh, El-Birein, El-'Aujeh, Ruḥeibeh, Ḥurbet Sa'adi, Ḥalaṣa, Bir el-Seba', and Dahariyeh. We walked from Jerusalem to 'Ain Ḳadeis, but used the camels on the way back, as they could then be relieved of their baggage. From 'Asluj to 'Abdeh and from Sebaita to 'Ain Ḳadeis we chose routes that had not been followed by any modern explorer. Not to duplicate the excellent work of the Dominican School at 'Abdeh, we devoted our chief attention to Sebaita and Ruḥeibeh. A complete plan of the former city was made. At Ruḥeibeh, the important discovery was made of more than thirty Greek inscriptions. Some of them are dated by indiction, day, month, and year. The stones were all left *in situ* except two that were handed over to the Ḳaimmaḳam of Bir el-Seba' and the discovery was reported to him and to the Mutasarrif of Jerusalem. It is to be hoped that they will find their way to the municipal museum in Jerusalem, which is the proper place for such finds. We secured good squeezes of the inscriptions. Throughout the trip the phonograph was put to good use. At 'Ain Ḳadeis it occurred to me to get the names of places repeated in the phonograph by guides and native visitors to our camp. It was found necessary to return to Jerusalem for supplies, and we arrived there June 9. At the end of this trip, Mr. Charles was obliged to return to America. I was called to Abu Shusheh for consultation and detained in Jaffa by an accident.

It was possible, however, to start on our last excursion in Arabia Petraea on the 23d of June. Messrs. John Whiting and Ole Larson, of the American Colony, accompanied us, and we had military escort from Bir el-Seba' to the end of the journey. We all rode on horseback, travelling chiefly during the early hours of the morning on account of the heat. The following places were visited: Hebron, Beni Na'im, Zif, Kurmul, Ma'in, Yuṭṭa, Semu'a, 'Attir, Bir el-Seba', Tell Milh, Ksaifeh, Tell 'Arad, 'Ar'ara, Kurnub, Wadi Ḥaḍirah, Ḥurbet Yerqa, 'Ain Yerqa, Sahl el-Rakeb, Birket el-Sumra, Wadi Rakeb, Jebel Madara, 'Ain Ḥurar, El-Biyar, Wadi Abu Sidar, 'Ain Weibeh, 'Ain el-Ghamr, Hammad Umm el-Ḳunaṭir, El-Ta'iyibeh, Wadi Musa, Jebel Harun, Elji, 'Ayun Musa, El-Busta, Ma'an, Shami'a, Oduḥ, Shobek, Dana, Ḥurbet Nuṣrani, Buṣerah, Tafi'leh, Kerak, 'Ain Zara, Wadi Sakkara, El Dra'a, Ṭowaḥin El-Sukkar on the Lisan, Ghor el-Mezra'a, Hadifeh, Wadi Beni Hammideh, Ṭowaḥin el-Sukkar in Wadi Suweil, Jebel Shiḥan, Ḳasr Rabba, Rabba, El Mojib (Arnon), Dhiban, 'Aṭṭarus, Jebel 'Aṭṭarus, Mukaur, Hammam el-Zerqa, Madeba, Ḥesban, Ḥurbet el-Suḳ, 'Amman, Jerash, El-Salt, 'Araḳ el-Emir, Tell Nimrin.

At Bir el-Seba' a number of Greek inscriptions were found, different from those published by the Dominicans, and squeezes taken. Between Kurnub and Wadi Musa new routes were taken not followed by any other explorers, and a number of new names were gathered and hitherto unknown sites photographed. The Plain of Rakeb and the Wadi Rakeb suggest the Rechabites, whom one naturally associates with the Kenite Negeb. Ḥaḍirah is no doubt an ancient Hazeroth. The numerous palms at the splendid fountain, 'Ain El-Weibeh, tempt to an identification of this favored spot with Tamar; Robinson's view that Kadesh Barnea once stood there, though still worthy of consideration, is less probable. Thanks to the excellent work of Brünnow and Domaszewski it was possible for us in four days to examine Petra quite thoroughly, including the important High Place and Jebel Harun. I also copied and photographed or squeezed nine new Nabataean inscriptions. A

hitherto unknown city ruin called Hurbet Nuşrani, with numerous interesting remains of the Byzantine period, was discovered between Dana and Buşera in a situation commanding a fine view of the Dead Sea. Two other ruined towns in the neighborhood could not be examined for want of time. The part of the coast of the Dead Sea extending from the Lisan to Wadi Suweil which was examined on the excursion from Kerak referred to above, has not been visited before by any modern explorer.

If time and means permit, I hope to elaborate and present the results of these journeys in Arabia Petraea in a volume entitled *The Negeb*. The inscriptions will be published first in the *Journal of the Archaeological Institute* and in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

On my way back to America I had an opportunity to visit, in August, Haifa, Beirut, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Larnaka, and Limasol on Cyprus, Mersina and Tarsus, Rhodes, Chios, Smyrna, and the Dardanelles, and to examine the archaeological museums of Constantinople, Bucharest, Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, and Berlin. The beginning of the academic year finds us all back in Ithaca in excellent health.

It is my earnest conviction that our School should possess a house of its own in Jerusalem. A large piece of land in a suitable location can now be purchased outright, and a dignified and commodious building be erected, for \$15,000 to \$20,000. Such a house would accommodate Director, Professor, Fellows, and students, and also visiting scholars and ministers. It would furnish a place where representatives of the different religions could come together on a common ground, it would give room for a growing library and museum, and it would be a centre of American interests and an honor to the American name. It is difficult to believe that an appeal for such a home could be in vain.

The School needs a Permanent Director, not only to look after its material interests, but also to insure continuity of work. Systematic work, covering a long period of years, might be

profitably undertaken by the School. In spite of abundant and admirably executed labors, there is no part of Syria of which we possess a satisfactory map; there are large regions in the south and southeast still unsurveyed; there are numberless tombs and caves to examine; and there is the possibility by careful observation to increase our knowledge everywhere. Such field work can be done at any time, and is not dependent upon the large funds that should be at the disposal of the School when excavations are attempted.

Closer relations with the American College in Beirut are desirable. The School might have the services of leading experts in the fauna and flora of Syria, numismatics, ceramics, and the use of scientific instruments, at a time when they are most in need of them, practically for the asking. I believe that it would be expedient to make such requests.

The Library of the School should be greatly increased. A catalogue of its present contents is ready for publication, and I am preparing a sketch of the libraries of the other Schools to accompany it, indicating also the directions in which these libraries are weakest, and in which our own, therefore, should be strengthened.

The School should possess a camera, a lantern, a mercurial barometer, thermometers, a prismatic compass, and instruments for anthropological measurements.

In closing, I desire to express the thanks of the School to the Mutasarrif of Jerusalem and the Wali of Damascus for the military escort during the travels in Arabia Petraea; to the Mudir of Jericho and the Prior of the Convent of Mar Yohanna for services in connection with the exploration of the Dead Sea; to Dr. Selah Merrill for two illustrated lectures on the Paintings at Beit Jibrin and Palestinian pottery, and for services rendered to the students; to Mr. Antoine T. Gelat, the efficient dragoman of the American Consulate, for much kindness to my family and the students; to President Bliss and the Faculty of the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut for the loan of instruments, and many courtesies; to Mr. Macalister, Dr.

Schumacher, Mr. Hanauer, and Dr. Benzinger for repeated kindnesses ; to Mr. Serafio Murad, the eminent Armenian lawyer, for much valued counsel ; to Mr. Sandel, of the Temple Colony, for the loan of an instrument ; and to Mr. John Whiting, and other members of the American Colony, for invaluable services in connection with our exploration of the Negeb.

Respectfully submitted,

NATHANIEL SCHMIDT.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
October 1, 1905.